

ARTICLE ALERT

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DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. "Human Rights, Asia and the New Administration: Can Multilateralism Work This Time?"

Catharin Dalpino. The Brookings Institution, December 2008, 5 pages.

The author, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, examines U.S. human rights policy toward Asian countries and how it has shifted over the past three decades. She discusses unprecedented challenges in the promotion of human rights in Asia that the Obama administration will face and suggests that the new administration find new opportunities and adopt a fresh approach to the issue.

2. "The Power of a Declaration"

Amartya Sen. *The New Republic*, February 4, 2009, 3 pages.

The author examines the 1948 adaption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations and looks at how the concept of human rights has changed with and since the release of this monumental document.

3. "Asia's Challenged Democracies"

Yun-han Chu, et al. *The Washington Quarterly*, January 2009, 15 pages.

Examining survey data conducted by a group of scholars collectively known as the East Asia Barometer, the authors discuss Asian public views about political dysfunction and attitudes toward local regimes and democracy.

4. "The Future of Democracy"

Zeyno Baran, et al. Hudson Institute and the Pew Charitable Trusts, December 10, 2008, 31 pages.

Given recent significant challenges to democracy promotion, substantial questions have arisen as to whether meaningful democratic reform is a realistic possibility in many parts of the world and whether democracy promotion is an appropriate anchor for American foreign policy. The authors explore the future of democracy and the role that the U.S. plays in promoting democracy abroad.

5. "Crimson Tide"

Noam Scheiber. *The New Republic*, February 4, 2009, 3 pages.

The author compares the U.S. presidential transition periods of former U.S. President Bill Clinton and newly-inaugurated U.S. President Barack Obama and discusses how the law schools they attended, Yale and Harvard Universities respectively, could account for the differences in their governing styles.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

6. "Trade Headwinds under Obama"

Greg Rushford. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, January/February 2009, 4 pages.

If the disconcerting protectionist rhetoric that Barack Obama used on the 2008 campaign trail has made

Asians worried, the incoming U.S. president's early appointments only reassure that he wants to govern from the center. Rushford examines how U.S. trade policy toward Asia will manifest itself under the new Obama free-trade team.

7. "How to Save the World"

Sherle R. Schwenninger. *World Policy Journal*, Winter 2008/09, 11 pages.

The author takes a critical look at the current U.S. economic crisis, particularly the collapse of major financial institutions, the extraordinary measures taken by the U.S. Federal Reserve and Treasury Department, and the capital injections into leading banks of the United States. He also discusses the challenges U.S. President Barack Obama will face in attempting to resolve the economic problems caused by the 2008 financial crisis and credit failures.

8. "A Global New Deal"

Harold Meyerson. *The American Prospect*, January/February 2009, 3 pages.

Barack Obama faces a much tougher task than did Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s to right a profoundly dysfunctional American economy. The economy that Obama must fix has so many dimensions that a purely national solution, which worked well in Roosevelt's time, will not work in this case. To fix America today requires fixing

global systems, which means President Obama must build a new "New Deal," one with globalizing, not only nationalizing, aspects.

9. "The Coming Food Coups"

Andrew S. Natsios and Kelly W. Doley. *The Washington Quarterly*, January 2009, 19 pages.

The authors discuss the political implications of the rapid increase of global food prices, especially in developing countries, and how donor governments can draw on traditional famine theory in order to better identify today's gravest risks and implement more effective responses to food crises.

10. "A Man for All Seasons"

John B. Judis. *The New Republic*, February 4, 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses the effects that economist John Maynard Keynes's career has had on U.S. economics and looks at the reasons why his brand of economics is used during financial crises. The author also points out how Keynes changed the way people viewed savings, investments, and consumption.

11. "RISK MISMANAGEMENT"

Joe Nocera. *New York Times Magazine*, January 4, 2009, 27 pages.

Nocera notes that stabilizing the U.S. economy is probably the most important issue the Obama administration will face; the risks taken by the U.S. and European investment firms have threatened to bring down the entire financial system. Many have suggested that the cause of the catastrophe was the widespread institutional reliance on a value-at-risk (VaR) financial model that did not take into account the biggest risk of all -- the possibility of a financial meltdown.

REGIONAL SECURITY

12. "On the Eve of Obama's Inauguration: American Soft Power in Asia"

Richard C. Bush III. The Brookings Institution, January 2009, 6 pages.

When it comes to Asia, there may be some disagreement on the size of the U.S. soft-power deficit that the Bush administration created. The author examines the U.S. soft-power policy toward Asia following the departure of George W. Bush and the arrival of the new Obama administration.

13. "Passing the Baton 2009: National Security and Foreign Policy Challenges Facing the New Administration"

A U.S. Institute of Peace Conference Marking the Institute's 25th Anniversary Year, January 8, 2009, 44 pages.

Passing the Baton 2009 was a one-day conference convened by the United States Institute of Peace to examine critical foreign policy challenges and opportunities facing the Obama administration as it transitions into power. Discussed are specific

options or recommendations for the Obama administration on issues of war and peace, on approaches to managing international conflict by non-violent means, and on ways of strengthening our national capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts abroad.

14. "The Making of George W. Obama"

Christian Brose. *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2009, 3 pages.

Although the 2008 U.S. election was really all about change, that is not the case for foreign policy. The author examines why there will be less foreign policy deviation in the Bush-Obama political transition than one might otherwise expect. A discussion on foreign policy challenged that the Obama administration will inherit from former President Bush and strategies that should be pursued in order for him to be a successful president.

15. "A Concert-Balance Strategy for a Multipolar World"

Michael Lind. *Parameters*, Autumn 2008, 13 pages.

Why does the United States have to prepare itself to cooperate on security interests with other major powers? The author examines U.S. military strategy in the 21st century, and discusses why a concert-balanced strategy would work for a multi-polar world in which the United States is not a solitary hegemony, but rather one of several great powers.

16. "Imagining Counterterrorism's Future"

Aziz Z. Huq. *World Policy Journal*, Winter 2008/09, 9 pages.

The author examines the counterterrorism policies of the United States and the possible transformation of U.S. efforts in the area once the new Obama administration takes office. Also discussed are issues around understanding the evolving nature of the terrorist threat and the recruitment of a new generation of terrorists.

17. "HUMANITARIAN DILEMMAS"

Pascal Zachary, *Wilson Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 3, Summer 2008, 7 pages.

Many believe that humanitarianism is facing a full-blown identity crisis as a result of nearly two decades of rapid growth in the humanitarian enterprise. According to Zachary's research, after the crackup of humanitarian efforts in the Rwandan crisis, where humanitarian aid actually prolonged the suffering in the refugee camps, the demand for humanitarian assistance called for more robust, self-critical and efficiency-minded humanitarianism.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

18. "Meltdown or Green Deal"

Gary Gardner and Michael Renner. *World Watch*, January/February 2009, 3 pages.

The authors examine how the global financial crisis has created an opening for a sustainability revolution in the United States. They offer a Global Green Deal, with several strategic objectives, like the transition to a renewable energy economy,

investing in green infrastructure and creating transportation systems that are less reliant on automobiles.

19. "Fighting Pirates: The Pen and the Sword"

James Kraska and Brian Wilson. *World Policy Journal*, Winter 2008/09, 12 pages. Discussing maritime piracy, the authors examine efforts of the international community to reduce the success of pirates operating from Somalia in the Gulf of Aden, attempts to eradicate maritime piracy completely, networks of shipping states and maritime partners that collaborate to respond to piracy attacks and warships from NATO conducting anti-piracy patrols.

20. "Low-Carbon Energy: A Roadmap"

Christopher Flavin, et al. Worldwatch Institute, December 2008, 52 pages. Solar energy, wind power, cogeneration, green buildings, smart grids, and electric vehicles are the key elements of a low-carbon energy system that is reliable and economical. The authors assess the way forward for each of the key elements of a low-carbon economy, with specific emphasis on what the Obama Administration and Congress can do to maintain the momentum that has developed over the past two years.

21. "THE ORIGIN OF THE OCEAN FLOOR".

Peter B. Kelemen. *Scientific American*, February 2009. The deep basins under the oceans are carpeted with lava that spewed from submarine volcanoes and solidified. Scientists have solved the mystery of how all that lava reaches the seafloor -- eighty-five percent of Earth's volcanic eruptions occur deep underwater along mid-ocean ridges. Scientists now think they have deciphered the process, beginning with the formation of microscopic droplets of liquid rock in regions up to 150 kilometers deep.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

22. "Soft Censorship: How Governments around the Globe Use Money to Manipulate the Media"

Don Podesta. *A Report to the Center for International Media Assistance*, January 9, 2009, 32 pages. In many countries, censorship of the news media now manifests itself in far more subtle ways, the phenomena sometime referred to collectively as "soft censorship." This report explores the spread of indirect means of censorship, particularly in countries where democracies are fragile and there is no culture of a strong, independent news media. Possible remedies that might be employed to attack the problem are also examined.

23. "Rightsizing' Newspapers: What Derailed the American Newspaper Industry?"

Ken Doctor. *Global Journalist*, Fall 2008, 7 pages. The decline of the U.S. newspaper industry has been so dramatic that rather than using terms like "downsizing" or "rightsizing," this author coins the term

"frightsizing." He explains what has happened to the American newspaper industry, focusing on revolutions that have quickly sapped the vitality of the U.S. print news industry.

24. "Wikis as Legitimate Research Sources"

Suzanne Bell. *Online*, November/December 2008, 4 pages.

The U.S. troops in Afghanistan are using a wiki to record and pass along vital operational information. Meanwhile, libraries use wikis for staff communication and collaboration, to provide information to and invite participation from users, and as teaching tools. Can we start to count wikis among other legitimate information sources?

25. "FATHER OF THE INTERNET"

Theresa Poulson. *National Journal*, December 22, 2008.

The author interviews Google Vice President Vinton Cerf about what he envisions a chief technology officer (CTO) could do in the Obama administration. Obama has said he would create this position, the first for a presidential administration, but little specifics are available about what this person would do.

U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

26. "American Girl"

Ta-Nehisi Coates. *The Atlantic Monthly*, January/February 2009, 6 pages.

First Lady Michelle Obama, wife of President Barack Obama, the first African American to hold that post, is profiled on a number of issues, including recollections of her childhood, the Chicago neighborhood she was raised in and the experience of southern African Americans in the urban north.

27. "It's Not What We Teach, It's What They Learn"

Alfie Kohn. *The Education Digest*, December 2008, 4 pages.

The author discusses effective teaching and student motivation, comparing parent-child and teacher-student relationships, with the intention of focusing action on encouraging comments instead of punishment to promote cooperative learning behavior.

28. "Asian American Identity: Shared Racial Status and Political Context"

Jane Junn and Natalie Masuoka. *Perspectives on Politics*, December 2008, 12 pages.

Using the dynamism of racial construction and the implicit comparisons across groups in the racial order of the United States as a backdrop, the authors analyze the dynamics of racial group consciousness among blacks and Asians Americans by examining the results of an embedded survey experiment designed to activate group identity.

29. "Future Schlock"

P. J. O'Rourke. *The Atlantic*, December 2008, 4 pages.

The author talks about his own experiences visiting the closed House of the Future exhibit at Disneyland amusement park, reflects on imaginative visions of the future, and then concludes that mankind is beginning to look backwards.

30. "Groping for words: A guide to slang and usage resources"

Edwin Battistella, *Choice*, vol. 46, no. 4, December 2008, 12 pages.

In this bibliographic essay, the author discusses the style and usage of grammar in the United States. By definition, grammar is the field of linguistics that covers the conventions governing the use of any given natural language. It includes morphology and syntax, often complemented by phonetics, phonology, semantics and pragmatics.